Reply.—The needs of this port have been met to some extent and its further development will be attended to.

V. Revenue and finance.

140. Encouragement of local manufacture of salt.

Mr. Ponnaiah Nadar of Eraniel (*Nominated*) suggested that the local manufacture of salt in the allams of South Travancore might be encouraged by importing Bombay salt only when absolutely necessary and enhancing the present kudivaram of 3 chs. in old pans to 6¼ chs. as in the new ones at Colachel.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) said that a notice had been recently published by Government inviting persons to take up lands for the manufacture of salt. The conditions were a little hard, but some time should elapse before their defects could be pointed out.

Reply.—Government have already moved in the matter of increasing the manufacture of home salt. The notice inviting applications for the registry of lands for the manufacture of salt has been published in the Government Gazette and negotiations with some persons who came forward have been completed. The old rate depends upon tenure and agreement, but wherever improved methods are adopted at the expense of the ryots, the matter is will be favourably considered. Any suggestions which may be made by Mr. Swamy Iyengar as proposed will be thankfully received.

141. Arrangement for the sale of salt at a uniform reduced rate throughout the State and the opening of new salt bankshalls.

Mr. K. Appathura Iyer, B. A., B. L., (*Nedumangad*) represented that one effect of the recent abolition of Sirkar bankshalls was that the sale of salt was left to be carried on by private merchants and it was a matter for hardship that these persons caring only for profit dealt in salt of very inferior quality and demanded exorbitant price for the same. The price of salt varied directly with the mercantile enterprise of the locality, and the poor people, who in common with the rich could not avoid the use of salt, suffered heavily. He therefore suggested that some measures might be adopted by Government for preventing malpractices on the part of traders in this important matter and safeguarding the proper sale of salt of good quality at a uniform

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